

USSN 09/981,431

Response

Remarks

Examiner Kornakov and Legal Instruments Examiner (LIE) Singleton are thanked for the courtesies extended to the undersigned Attorney in their telephone discussions of December 16, 2004, with respect to the Notice.

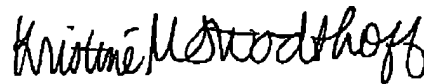
As discussed with the Examiners, Claims 141-148 have been re-designated as being "previously presented" (initially submitted in the Response after Final, filed by Applicant on July 16, 2004).

It is believed that claims have been provided with the proper status identifier, and that Applicant has fully responded to the prior Office Action and Notices. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned Attorney if there any further issues that should be addressed.

Extension of Term. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, if an extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor, and charge the required fee to Account No. 23-2053.

Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned Attorney if any questions should arise or further discussion would expedite the examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 34,259

Dated: December 16, 2004

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